

Washington, DC - President Obama addressed a joint session of Congress, calling for swift action to achieve health insurance reform.

The following is a statement from Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore):

"No American should live without health insurance, in fear of the illness that lurks around the corner or accident waiting to happen. Yet every day, in the world's wealthiest nation, 14,000 Americans lose their health care.

"Obama's rallying call should serve as a warning to those who have spent the last months intentionally deceiving Americans about health reform: there is no room at the table for those who play politics with American lives. There is no room at the table for those who tell lies about death panels or lies meant to drag down change that will improve the lives of millions of Americans. I welcomed both his offer to work cooperatively and his refusal to waste time with people who would rather kill health care reform than improve it.

"There are seats at the table only for those who will work together, engage in honest debate, and offer real solutions for reform. This means driving down the cost of health insurance and improving the quality of care for every American. It also means giving people a choice, and by providing a government option that competes with private insurance, people can select the health care plan that works for them and their family.

"I join President Obama in saying that we are done putting Americans in harm's way through inaction. That is unacceptable. Tonight's speech by the president made a compelling case for immediate action and strong reform."

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